Currently, the surviving spouse of a military member who dies on active duty or of a service-connected illness or injury in retirement is entitled to survivor’s benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs’ Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) fund. However, if they had also voluntarily paid into the Department of Defense’s Survivors Benefits Plan (SBP) in addition to the DIC, their survivors’ benefits can be subtracted by as much as $15,828 per year.

Essentially, the SBP is being subtracted from the total survivor’s benefit, rather than added to it. That means more than 65,000 military surviving spouses receive less money than they’re supposed to — in some cases much less money. It’s been nicknamed the “widow’s tax.”

What the legislation does
The Military Surviving Spouses Equity Act (in the House) and the Military Widow’s Tax Elimination Act (in the Senate) would eliminate this provision, giving military spouses their full money due.

The House version was introduced on January 15 as bill number H.R. 553, by Rep. Joe Wilson (R-SC2) with 377 co-sponsors. The Senate version on February 28 as bill number S. 622, by Sen. Doug Jones (D-AL) has 76 co-sponsors.

What supporters say
More than 70% of both the House and Senate support this legislation, but it’s failed in the past four Congresses. Will this time be different? Supporters argue that government bureaucracy shouldn’t deprive grieving military spouses of much-needed financial support.

“It is absolutely unacceptable that our federal government refuses to pay the widows and widowers of our nation’s heroes the full benefits they are entitled to, especially those benefit plans for which they have voluntarily paid into,” Sen. Jones said in a press release.

“No surviving spouse should be faced with this unexpected and completely unfair cut to the benefits they count on in these tragic circumstances,” Sen. Jones continued. “This is a tax on military families who have already sacrificed so much. We are going to work to right this wrong.”

“Members of our military risk their lives for our freedoms every day. It is unconscionable to think there is a ‘Widow’s Tax’ on the surviving family members of our courageous men and women,” Rep. Wilson said in a press release. “We owe it to them to secure stable benefits in the event of their retirement or death.”

“For too long, the Survivors Benefits Plan (SBP) reduction by the amount of paid Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) has been an unfair penalty that cuts earned benefits to military survivors,” Rep. Wilson continued. “This issue creates a substantial burden for the surviving families, and we must act now.”

What opponents say
GovTrack Insider was unable to locate any explicit statements of opposition, although the cost could have some wary. The Congressional Budget Office has estimated the House legislation would cost $5.7 billion over the next decade.

Odds of passage
It has attracted 75 bipartisan Senate cosponsors: 43 Democrats or Democratic-affiliated independents plus 32 Republicans. That’s the second-most Senate cosponsors of any bill so far this Congress, behind only the Women’s Suffrage Centennial Commemorative Coin Act with 82 cosponsors. It awaits a potential vote in the Senate Armed Services Committee.

It has also attracted 372 bipartisan House cosponsors: 208 Democrats and 164 Republicans. That gives it the most House cosponsors of any bill so far this Congress. It awaits a potential vote in the House Armed Services Committee.

So, it is a sure bet? Not so fast. The legislation has been introduced in the past four Congress sessions, to no avail. The 2017 version had 271 cosponsors, the 2015 version had 208 cosponsors, the 2013 version had 237 cosponsors, and the 2011 version had 207 cosponsors. None even received a House vote, let alone passage.
First and foremost, I want to thank you for electing me as your 2019-2020 national commander. I look forward to working alongside the Legion Family as we move into our second century of service, and I am excited to see what the year holds for this great organization of ours.

As you may know, national commander’s oftentimes have projects that they support during their year. From now until the end of December, my commanders project will be The American Legion’s 100th Anniversary Commemorative Coin series. Proceeds from coin sales will help fund American Legion programs that support veterans, servicemembers, their families and the communities in which they live. Coin sales end Dec. 31.

Those centennial coins make great gifts and give you American Legion memorabilia. I know in North Carolina we’re going to use those centennial coins as membership incentives.

To make a purchase or for more information about the centennial coins, visit www.legion.org/coin or call 800-872-6468.

Then, in January, my emphasis will shift to fundraising for The American Legion Veterans and Children’s Foundation. All contributions to the foundation go directly to the Legion’s Temporary Financial Assistance program and to Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation efforts – primarily training for American Legion service officers who work tirelessly to help veterans and families understand their health-care benefits, education and employment opportunities.

As we think about who we are and what we do as stakeholders, as the future of this organization, we are building the foundation for the future of the organization for the next 100 years.

We have a great team, and we will continue to have a great team. When we think about all the things that we do, that team makes it possible to accomplish those things.

‘You are a true American hero, and you are a true French hero’

By: Andy Proffet

More than a year after a landmine ended his time on the frontlines of World War II, Jimmie Royer’s leg was still in pain.

“I was having trouble standing on it,” Royer recalled. “I went and asked the surgeon, he said, ‘I wouldn’t touch that again, you wear your Ace bandage and go home and stay off it.’ I got in the car and put my head on that steering wheel, I said, ‘Lord, I’m leaving everything up to you, I’m not worried about a thing anymore, but I don’t plan on being a cripple.’

“So I went home and got barbells and started doing deep knee exercises. I had to put my heels on a 2x4 because I couldn’t bend my ankles. So I got to where I could stand on my leg. I thank the Lord every day, because I’m not a cripple now,” he said.

World War II veteran Jimmie Royer receives the French Legion of Honor at Post 346 in Terre Haute, Indiana on Sunday, September 29. Photo by Ben Mikesell/The American Legion

Royer, while serving in the Army’s 106th Cavalry during World War II, was injured by a landmine during the Lorraine Forest campaign, on Oct. 27, 1944. Royer recalled his experience in the hospital at Marseilles a week after the injury.

“I took a spit bath and shaved, and as soon as I got done, the nurse came to take the water away and I got nauseated. That bed started spinning around like a top,” he said.

Royer was bleeding out: “Every time they would build my blood volume up, I would bleed. When

(Continued on Page 27 See Down)
Hey, it's time to do a Buddy Check

By: Dean Noechel, Department Commander

It is already October and we are all getting ready for the Fall season to be upon us. Your department team has been busy over that last few months since convention. We have visited a lot of Districts and Posts. We are still traveling for our Fall Conferences with the Districts.

Our National Commander James “Bill” Oxford will be with us here in Colorado October 6-10, 2019. We will honor the National Commander at a banquet hosted by American Legion Post 209 in Colorado Springs on Wednesday October 9, 2019. Please RSVP to Jackie Bowen at jackiebowen2005@yahoo.com. The cost is $10.00 with your choice of chicken fried steak or baked chicken breast. I know that you all will want to come out and meet your National Commander and what a better way to do that than to attend a banquet that honors our leader of our great organization.

We are starting to put together our Mid-Year Conference to be held in Colorado Springs at the Hotel Eleganté, January 16-19, 2020. We plan to have training and some other great events happening. We will have a special guest attending this year’s Mid-Year Conference. Please join us to meet Candidate for National Commander, Randall Fisher, from Kentucky. Rooms are available at the Hotel Eleganté. Call them and book your room before they are sold out and remember to mention the Legion rate when booking your room.

Now is a great time to start doing a “Buddy Check” on our members, reach out to them and see how they are doing. Be sure to remind them that The American Legion is always here to aid and assist them. Doing a buddy check has helped so many Veterans this past year and it also lets them know that we care about our members.

We, as members of the largest Veterans Service Organization, have to make sure that we stay a community-based organization. What does that mean? It means that we have to be active in our communities, with our children, in our schools and promoting a strong Americanism to our friends and neighbors.

What I am asking you to do is get out in your community and say “THANK YOU” to our friends and neighbors that are flying our nations colors every day by presenting them with a certificate of RE-IGNITING PATRIOTISM. Do you have businesses in your community that fly the flag every day? If so send me an email at d.noechel@coloradolegion.org with the business name and I will personalize a certificate for each business for you to present to say Thank you! This project will help all of us to get out in our communities and recognize our neighbors and business. We need to let them know that The American Legion is leading the way in promoting Americanism in Colorado. Did you know that behind almost every flag that is flying there is a Veteran associated with it? This is a great way to talk about what your Post is doing and invite them to participate.

Our American Legion programs need your help and support, we need financial help, participation of our youth and volunteers to continue to have the most premier programs in the world.

The Colorado Oratorical Contest will be held at Metro State in Denver in March 2020. Colorado American Legion Boys State will be held at University of Colorado, Colorado Springs (UCCS) May 30, 2020 - June 4, 2020. Colorado American Legion Baseball will be kicking off in the spring and running through the summer. These programs help shape the future leaders of our country and your community. Will you help to sponsor them? Send all donations to Department Headquarters marked for your program of choice.

Colorado Veterans Assistance Fund needs funds. This is how we are able to assist our brothers and sisters that are in need. Did you know that since January we have provided over $40,000.00 in direct aid to Veterans? This would not be possible if it wasn’t for you and your donations to continue to assist. This last month the American Legion Riders donated $2,271.00. Louisville Post 111 donated $1500.00, Northglenn Post 22 donated $389.00, and Arvada Post 161 donated $150.00. Please keep up the great work and I ask that you host one fundraiser to help our brothers and sisters that need our assistance.

Because of our generous donations from our members like you we will continue to make an impact with our youth, our veterans and our communities.

THANK YOU FOR ALWAYS ANSWERING THE CALL TO ASSIST A VETERAN IN NEED.

Thank you for this great opportunity to serve as your 100th Department Commander.

RE-IGNITE PATRIOTISM
Teamwork!
By: Greg Jackson, Department Sr. Vice Commander

We have had our first Membership Target date come and go. Again, congratulations on the quick acceleration towards the September 11th membership target date. We’ve left the starting gate at a great pace and let’s keep working together.

As we are starting our Fall Conference Schedule and Roundups to follow, I wanted to briefly focus on the importance of attending Post, District and Department Meetings.

You may ask “why should I or my post attend?” That is a very good question. I am sure that many have different answers to that question. Overall the biggest answer is TEAM (Together Everyone Achieves More). With Teamwork we can move mountains of programs that will benefit our communities and states and even our nation.

When we attend these meetings and, we show we are a part of the team. We all have heard of the saying “United we stand, Divided we fall”. It is a true statement and when we as a team don’t talk, plan and work together then often we cannot achieve those great outcomes that have made this country great and our organization strong and durable. When we talk, plan and work together then amazing things happen. Example of the teamwork is the Legion Act, many hours and members at all levels working together over many years of drafting many resolutions before it passed. This was a total team effort and shows how staying united and unyielding will eventually lead to success.

Attending these meetings also leads to engagement of membership. O.K. What! Am I talking about? All members from the basic post members to district officers should be invited and welcomed to all meetings. Every member is equally important in The American Legion team and our goal of Re-igniting Patriotism in all forms of our programs. Often these meetings are the best place to inform, educate and learn from each other and then we can better serve our communities, state and nation.

And even if we don’t care for someone for whatever the reason, take a few hours to come together and talk about how we can do better as a team. When we assume the role of a team member then amazing things happen. And who knows, maybe those dislikes of each other will soon fade. I would rather have you disagree with me and know where we stand, otherwise nothing successful gets accomplished. Disagreements often lead to a mutual agreement that all members will support.

I ask every one that reads this article to go out and participate in Re-igniting Patriotism and become a member of your TEAM. The Commander and I look forward to seeing and hearing from you in all our visits throughout the State.

We Will Be in Your Neighborhood Soon! Show us your Team Colorado Patriotism

The new Mr. & Mrs. Dean Noechel, married on September 27, 2019 at Post 209 with Jay Bowen officiating before friends and family. Congratulations and many happy days to come.
The 101st American Legion National Convention has completed and the Legislative Commission reviewed the successes and what needs to be done in the future. Of the 13 items on The American Legion Legislative Agenda for the 116th Congress two were completed. Redefine “wartime service” period – The Legion Act and expand Agent Orange benefits – Blue Water Navy Act. Refer to the Agenda issues by going to www.legion.org and selecting ‘Legislative’ under the ‘Programs’ tab. From there select the Legislative Agenda.

The next major issue is the Military Widows Tax Elimination (H.R 553 & S. 622) which have passed both houses and is currently in Conference Committee. Many of you have contacted your Congressional Representatives concerning these bills but until both houses repass the bills (as amended) the fight continues. Also, of interest is the Retired Pay Restoration (S 208 & H.R. 303) also referred to as VA offsets.

As a reminder, now is the time to think about what Colorado state issues you would like to see worked on in the coming Colorado Assembly beginning in January 2020. One issue that was not passed in the 2019 session was a Colorado Veterans hiring preference, the UVC Legislative Committee will look at having it reintroduced next year. Send me your ideas to 1gforce@prodigy.net or 1gforce01@gmail.com and I will forward them to the UVC Legislative Committee for review and inclusion in their proposed legislative action for 2020.

A Message From The SAL Detachment Commander Arceo

Make a difference

By: Nick Arceo, Commander, SAL Detachment of Colorado

Good day Sons of The American Legion.

Thank you for your hard work and dedication to the four pillars of The American Legion.

It was my privilege to attend our National Convention in August in the great city of Indianapolis Indiana. We took care of many business items, including electing our new National Commander, Clint Bolt from the Detachment of Virginia. Clint has held several positions in The Sons of The American Legion. His wealth of knowledge and outstanding leadership qualities will serve him well in his new position.

I was awarded The Charles B. Rigsby Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Volunteer of the Year. I enjoy my volunteer time at The Rocky Mountain Regional V.A. Hospital in Aurora. It truly is the highlight of my week to give back to our Veterans at this facility. Will you consider to be a Volunteer at a VA facility? We need more Sons to be active in this area. Please contact me for information. Remember “You can Make a Difference”.

Other items of note, Mike Kirschner remains on the Internal Affairs Commission, Richard Humphrey continues on the Legislative Commission, and I was appointed to the Veterans Education and Employment Commission. A resolution was passed to increase National dues from $2.00 to $5.00 taking effect June of 2020 for 2021 membership year. As we enter the fall season, I will be out and about the state participating in the Fall Conferences. I want to invite all SAL members to attend these Conferences. If we have enough members attend, I will do a breakout session for just the Sons in attendance. I have plenty of good information to pass along, I hope to see you there. Please check will your sponsoring Post for information.

One very important date to keep in mind this month is October 9th. This is our 25% membership date! We hit our last target date of 10%! Great job. Continue to focus on membership, lets stay out in front of each goal as the year goes on! Don’t forget about 2019 renewals, we can still get to 100%, currently we are at 93.6%. Thank you for your hard work on membership.

October is a great time to focus on child safety. Squadrons should participate in Halloween safety events in your communities. What can I do for you?

I look forward to seeing many of you in my travels this fall. Till then keep in mind my theme for the year “You can make a Difference” God Bless.
Inspired by your service.

As a veteran who has received an Honorable discharge, you’re eligible for membership in USAA. With advice, tools and products to aid you with insurance, banking, investments and retirement, USAA is committed to stand alongside you wherever life takes you.

Explore the benefits of USAA membership now.

1-877-699-2654 | usaa.com/legion
Once upon a time……… This famous opening line of many a story, real and imagined, has special significance for the American Legion. For once upon a time, March 15, 1919 to be exact, a group of doughboys who had just fought the “war to end all wars” made a decision that would change the course of history.

It was on that day the collective mindset of these WWI heroes came together to form The American Legion. From that day on The American Legion has celebrated many, once upon a time days.

For instance, in November of 1919 the NEA and The American Legion and decided that many of their comrades were illiterate and that they needed to highlight the value of education. I quote from the first paragraph of the NEA website.

“Distressed that 25 percent of the country’s World War I draftees were illiterate and 9 percent were physically unfit, representatives of the NEA and the American Legion met in 1919 to seek ways to generate public support for education.”

From a meeting in 1921, The American Legion and the NEA sponsored a resolution that designated a week in November to be called “American Education Week.” This year we will celebrate that event from November 18-22, 2019. For 100 years the American Legion has been concerned about the education of our youth. So our “once upon a time” story here is the beginning of our commitment to education and it continues today.

Once upon a time, the WWI veterans were concerned that all of the services they needed as veterans to assist them, and their families, back to a normal life were scattered among many federal agencies. So in 1930 they fixed that by passing a resolution asking Congress to roll all of the services available to veterans into one agency. From that resolution, and American Legion activism in Congress, came the Veterans Administration as we know it today.

Once upon a time, this country entered into another war with the bombing of Pearl Harbor. America was drug into a war they did not want and once again America would ask their young men to fight and defend our freedoms. The America Legion was right in the middle of the war with their activism on behalf of these new veterans and imploring Congress to provide the resources to win that war. The WWI veterans running the American Legion at that time soon made the decision that these new veterans needed to belong to The American Legion so they went to Congress and changed our charter to permit these WWII “boys” to join their ranks.

Once upon a time, in 1946 a single WWI Legionnaire, Harry Comerly, wrote words on hotel stationery, which would eventually become the Post WWII GI Bill. It has been argued over the years that this single document essentially changed the face of America. It opened up opportunities for the WWII veterans to purchase homes, further their education and secure good paying jobs to transform America into a real economic powerhouse. The vision of our WWI veterans was still alive, a better America for all.

Once upon a time, America again found itself embroiled in a war in a far off country called Korea. This war is often referred to as the “forgotten war” by those who served in it, but the America Legion did not forget. They continued their activism before Congress to be sure that these veterans would not be forgotten, nor lost in the system. Once again, the leaders of the organization recognized the need to bring these veterans into the fold so that they too could be a part of the solutions to their unique problems.

Once upon a time, a “conflict” broke out in a place called Vietnam. Once again American boys and girls were asked to fight a war in a far off country. There is still a controversy today about when that war really began. Some say our involvement in Vietnam goes back to 1956 and that should be the start day for veteran’s benefits. Others say the start date should be in 1959 when the first American military advisors were inserted into the country. The American Legion finally settled on January 21, 1961 and asked Congress to make this the official start date for benefits. The first recognized casualty of that war, James T. Davis from Tennessee, was killed in hostile action on December 22, 1961. For years this remained the official start date. But no matter what the date, the American Legion was once again in the forefront of advocating for veterans of that war.

Once upon a time, continued for veterans of the Panama, Granada/Lebanon, Persian Gulf and all of the veterans serving since August of 1991 as the American Legion welcomed them into our ranks. We have been continuously addressing their unique issues and problems.

Once upon a time, our veterans have been involved in multiple conflicts for the last 18 plus years. Afghanistan and Iraq are the most recognizable. Our veterans today have served multiple tours in these wars. This presents many problems not seen in past conflicts. But The American Legion is still here addressing those problems.

Once upon a time continues today. On July 30th, 2019 president Trump signed the LEGION ACT. This act opened up the eligibility ranks for all veterans who have served at least one day of active duty since December 7th, 1941 and were honorably discharged. Out WWI veterans fought that war to end all wars but their mantra at that time was “a veteran is a veteran.” By opening up the eligibility dates we are honoring their commitment to those who have served, no matter the time period or the duty station.

Today, if you are reading this, and you are a veteran with an
About Faith
By: Stanley Hamamoto, Department Chaplain

Has God been good to you!!!!!!!

Now that October is here, and the District Meetings are in full swing, you are about to see God at work. Soon the fall colors will be seen and when you see this, just remember that this is the work of God. I hope that many of you have had a chance to attend your district meeting. I will try to attend as many as I can, but living in the South Valley, it makes traveling long and difficult. But God willing I will attend as many as I can, and I am looking forward to seeing and meeting as many of you as I can.

FAITH: the dictionary says this about faith just two words: Believe and Trust. And you know what, this really says it all, think about it for a while. Here is something that is said in Hebrews 12: 1 – 2: “We have around us many people whose lives tell us what faith means. So let us run the race that is before us and never give up. We should remove from our lives anything that would get in the way and the sin that so easily holds us back. Let us look only to our Lord, the one who began our faith and who makes it perfect. He suffered death on the cross. But he accepted the shame as if it were nothing because of the joy God put before him. And now, he is sitting at the right hand of God.” Then in Romans 12:3: “Because God has given us a special gift, I have something to say to everyone among you. Do not think you are better that you are. You must decide what you really are by the amount of faith God has given you.”

My good friend Max Lucado says it better than I can. “Faith is the belief that God is real and that God is good----it is a choice to believe that the one who made it all hasn’t left it at all and that he still sends light into the shadows and responds to gestures of faith. Faith is the belief that God will do what is right. God says that the more hopeless your circumstances, the more likely your salvation. The greater your cares, the more genuine your prayers. The darker the room, the greater the need for light. God’s help is near and always available, but it is only given to those who seek it.” Max’s prayer is: ”Father, help us renew our commitment to you, to release everything and to be owned and possessed by you. We long to submit ourselves to you so that we might know the holy freedom available to us only through your grace.”

Faith is something we must believe in and have trust in. Here it is from the dictionary, these two words: Believe and Trust. I know that many of us have a very hard time doing these two things. I myself am guilty of this many times over. HE believes in us and HE trusts us, so why can’t we believe and trust HIM? That is the biggest question that I will ask you, believe and trust HIM. I know it is not easy, for when we need HIM the most, sometimes it feels like HE is not around or listening. But be assured, HE is around and HE is listening to you. Many times we are looking in the wrong places for the answer, we are to blame and not our LORD. All I can say to all of you is, have lots of Faith in HIM and HE will never let you down. God Bless You!!!!!

My last three words to all of you are: GO TO CHURCH!!!!!
SECOND CHANCE
BICYCLE SHOP

Unwanted Bicycles Needed!

We are looking for any of your unwanted bicycles for donations to Veterans, Homeless and Kids.

We can pick up bikes in Metro Denver Area or can be dropped off at our shop in Aurora. Please call Ernie Clark for pick up details etc. @ 720-270-5731.
Address: 4122 S Parker Road Aurora 80014
Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday 8-3 pm
Thanks for everyone’s support of SCBS!
On Sept. 12, 2001, finding an American flag on a store shelf was near impossible – they were flying outside homes, schools, businesses and churches to show unity and patriotism in a time of tragedy.

“We were all proud Americans … we were united, we were strong,” said American Legion Department of Colorado Commander Dean Noechel Sept. 11 during Loveland Post 2000’s 9/11 remembrance ceremony. While looking at a massive American flag hanging from the ladder of a Loveland Fire Department truck at Foote Lagoon park where the ceremony was held, Noechel, whose theme as commander is “Reigniting Patriotism,” said, “I have seven brothers that came home underneath that flag. When I see that flag wave, it makes me proud to be an American.”

This was Post 2000’s fifth annual 9/11 ceremony where American Legion Family and community members, Loveland Mayor Jackie Marsh, the local fire and police departments, and other first responders came to the park to pay their respects and honor the nearly 3,000 people who lost their lives, including 343 firefighters and 72 law enforcement officers, on a day that became the deadliest terror attack on American soil.

The ceremony opened with a 21-gun salute, posting of colors, singing of the National Anthem and opening remarks by Post 2000 member and chairman of the event Tony Abbott. He asked Legionnaires, veterans, law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency personnel, doctors and nurses to stand in recognition of their ongoing service, sacrifice and role in saving lives.

“It’s more important than ever for us to unify as Americans. Everybody that was here (for the ceremony) was here because they’re a patriot,” said Abbott, who was a volunteer fireman on the dive team and rope rescue team when the attacks occurred. “They’re all here because of what happened on Sept. 11.”

Sept. 11, 2001, was a day that forever changed America, one that many can recall where they were when news reached them that America was under attack, and one that instilled patriotism in Americans to serve their country.

Abbott has a guest speaker each year for the ceremony to share how 9/11 changed them. This year it was Post 2000 Commander and Sons of The American Legion Squadron Commander Tony Koch, who was about three weeks in to his seventh grade year when teachers shared the shocking news. Then, five years later during his senior year in high school, he enlisted in the U.S. Army “to be a part of something bigger. To continue the sense of honor and duty that I developed in the Boy Scouts,” he shared with the crowd. “If it were not for the first responders on that day, more lives could have been lost. You save, heal and protect this beautiful place we call home.”

The event for Loveland Assistant Police Chief Tim Brown is a reminder of “a very meaningful piece of a relationship (with the community) that was born out of tragedy,” said Brown, a law enforcement officer for 37 years. “The respect for the military, the first responders, law enforcement, emergency staff and then the show of support from the community, our veterans … that mutual respect and camaraderie is incredible.”

As online news stories throughout the day Wednesday recounted the events that occurred 18 years ago, Koch read a headline that stood out to him and one he closed his remarks with. “We need to start treating this era like we did Sept. 12, 2001, where everything is American and that we should become one.”

The ceremony concluded with the playing of Taps on a bugle and “Amazing Grace” on bagpipes. Sept. 11 remembrance events like the one held by Post 2000 are conducted throughout the country to never forget the sacrifices made and continue to be made by servicemembers.

“I want people to remember the sacrifice the civilians made … just by going to work. By taking a flight,” said Noechel, an Army veteran who was on active duty and stationed in Hawaii on Sept. 11, 2001. “I want everybody to remember that because for a military person, we signed up and we knew there was a chance we were going to go to combat. The (servicemembers) who joined after 9/11, they made the choice that they were going to defend our country because of what happened. Those (lost on 9/11) just went to work.”

Colorado Springs Post 209 Jr. Vice Commander Desiree Guerra was in 10th grade when she heard the news that lead her on the path to protect and defend her country.

“For people who joined (the military) after 9/11, we knew (what we were signing up for) … it was this fire inside of us that we’re going to do this and this is something that I’m committed to,” she said. “I love my country enough to do that.”
My brother, an USAF veteran, recently fractured two of his vertebrae. As I waited for news on the extent of his injury, I received an email from Chrystal at our National Headquarters, requesting I contact her.

As Chrystal and I spoke, I fought back tears. I desperately wanted Chrystal to be rude or unprofessional. Chrystal, being the faceless person 1,000 miles away, would be the perfect target for my outrage. I wanted someone to blame, be angry at, or give me a reason to lash out. And, much to my dismay, Chrystal remained calm, professional, and patient as we navigated through a series of miscommunications and misinformation between our Department and National Headquarters.

As the call came to an end, I asked Chrystal, ‘may I share something with you?’ And, she said yes. Tears streamed down my face, as I told her what had happened to my brother. Chrystal did something very beautiful - she simply listened. In my moment of need, my Auxiliary sister 1,000 miles away, became my friend.

In order to grow, we must listen to each other, not to just the actual words, but also the tone and emotion. Be careful of your own words – a harsh word or a mean tone could potentially be the ‘straw that broke the camel’s back’ to someone who is struggling. Listening to each other – what a wonderful way to help a member in need!

Blessings,

Tracy Trujillo
Department Auxiliary President

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Blessings,

Tracy Trujillo
Department Auxiliary President

Listen to the words, the emotion, the feelings, before you speak!

By: Department Auxiliary President Tracy Trujillo

October is fast approaching. First and foremost, we must be diligent of our children. School has begun and SAFETY is the number one key.

Schools are there to teach our children many things, among them, AMERICANISM. The Pledge of Allegiance is the first step to teaching our children of where we came from and where we are headed. We send our children to learn of our rich history. October 14th is Columbus Day. Our founding fathers made the way to where we are today.

Our Units can also help support our children with the BACKPACK program. No child should be left out for they are our future.

Halloween is coming soon. Again, we need to keep their SAFETY in mind. There are so many things that your Units can do to help keep them safe. Have a block party from 3:30pm to 5pm. Throw a haunted Halloween party at your local Unit and supply safe games and prizes. Participate in the downtown Halloween sidewalk candy handout. Let your community in on the games. You don’t always need to hand out candy. You can hand out pencils, erasers and school supplies as well.

Memberships can grow with activities your Units have with the communities. We need to show everyone the importance of proper Flag Etiquette. Inform the community to drop off a flag that needs to be retired through your local paper, face book or social medias. Be available.

I wish everyone a safe and happy HALLOWEEN.

Auxiliary C&Y Committee’s Message

By: Debra Jackson C&Y Committee Chair

October is fast approaching. First and foremost, we must be diligent of our children. School has begun and SAFETY is the number one key.

Schools are there to teach our children many things, among them, AMERICANISM. The Pledge of Allegiance is the first step to teaching our children of where we came from and where we are headed. We send our children to learn of our rich history. October 14th is Columbus Day. Our founding fathers made the way to where we are today.

Our Units can also help support our children with the BACKPACK program. No child should be left out for they are our future.

Halloween is coming soon. Again, we need to keep their SAFETY in mind. There are so many things that your Units can do to help keep them safe. Have a block party from 3:30pm to 5pm. Throw a haunted Halloween party at your local Unit and supply safe games and prizes. Participate in the downtown Halloween sidewalk candy handout. Let your community in on the games. You don’t always need to hand out candy. You can hand out pencils, erasers and school supplies as well.

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I wish everyone a safe and happy HALLOWEEN.
Fall Junior Auxiliary Department Meeting

Come join us for learning and fun!
Starting 12:00 Saturday September 14th through Sunday September 15th

Cost: $10 to cover food for Saturday and Sunday morning

Activities: Continuation of review of Legion Documents, Movie Time, Bonding and Lining I25 for the High Plains Inaugural Honor Flight Sunday Morning

American Legion Post 180
595 Railroad Ave, Keenesburg, CO 80643

What to Bring
Sleeping Bag and Pillow
Willingness to have fun and learn

Please RSVP
alacoloradojuniors@gmail.com

You Too Can Join The World’s Largest War Time Veterans Service Organization And Advocate For Veteran’s Benefits Too!
Call 303-366-5201
9/11 - An opportunity to educate the nation’s youth

By Steven B. Brooks

With the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, now 18 years in the past, there are now seniors in high school who may not have been born when the attacks occurred.

That’s why many American Legion posts across the nation feel it’s their role to remind those youth what transpired on that day. On such post is Hilton Stone American Post 279 in Woodbury, Tenn., which on Sept. 11 conducted its ninth National Patriot Day Ceremony.

A full gymnasium of Cannon County High School students, first responders, military personnel and community members joined Post 279 Legionnaires, state and district Legion leaders and American Legion National Commander Bill Oxford. The national commander was invited by Post 279 to attend the ceremony while on his official visit to the Department of Tennessee; near the close of the ceremony he was presented a $425 donation by the post to the Legion’s National Emergency Fund.

“Today, we’re in a school, and that’s part of who we are and what we do,” Oxford said. “We are about training, teaching and educating our young people, and providing the developmental process for them to make sure we don’t forget 9/11.”

“We’ve also got to remember that America was under attack on 9/11, but we’re still under attack. We’re still constantly facing those kinds of issues and things that we need to remember.”

Looking around as the bleachers in the gym began to fill with students, Post 279 Adjutant Michael Parks explained that “9/11 was 18 years ago. Most of these kids weren’t born, so they need to know. Whoever said it – ‘if you don’t know history you’re going to repeat it.’ They need to know the sacrifices the (first responders) and military have made all along, and especially since 9/11.”

Welcoming attendees to start the ceremony, Post 279 Third Vice Commander Christine Barrett called the ceremony “a solemn reminder of the continued sacrifices of our first responders and military that are deserving of our utmost honor and respect.”

In his law enforcement prayer, Rev. Tony Burnett – statewide coordinator of the Drug Recognition Expert School and Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement within the Tennessee Highway Safety Office – said first responders “so many times go to places that we fear, places where we are that we don’t know what to do. I pray today and throughout every day that they would feel the commitment and appreciation of their community.”

Cannon County Rescue Squad Chief Operating Officer Tim Bell, a former state paramedic of the year, was the guest speaker and reminded the audience that among those U.S. citizens killed when planes hit the World Trade Center and Pentagon, and when a fourth plane crashed in Pennsylvania, were 412 first responders.

“This day is a day that we should never forget. We don’t want to forget,” Bell said. “We want to honor those (killed).”

Bell, who graduated from Cannon County High School, urged the students to not shy away from serving their community and country, “either in the military or in the volunteer fire department or rescue squad. If you believe that you can’t help, you won’t. If you believe that you can’t do something, it will be a self-fulfilling promise. But if you believe that you can do something, you will be able to.”

Post 279 Commander David Faulkner said that the events of 9/11 deserve the same recognition and reflection as another event that took place nearly 78 years ago.

“It’s important for our nation to take the time to remember those events in our history that have shaped this nation,” Faulkner said. “Two of those events that have happened in the last 100 years … are the attack on Pearl Harbor by the Imperial Forces of Japan on the seventh of December, 1941. The next major attack was on Sept. 11, 2001 by a group of terrorists.”

Among the students in attendance were 2019 Tennessee Boys State attendees Lucas Clark, Austin Powell and Collin Reed, who recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Cannon County Fire Department Chief Michael Underhill struck a bell honoring fallen first responders, while a member of each area first-responder agency was honored as an Outstanding First Responder by Post 279.

Near the close of the ceremony, retired U.S. Army Sgt. Franz Walkup placed a wreath in front of the podium.

“Today is about remembering, honoring and never forgetting those who died on 9/11,” Oxford said, “those who died (during the attacks), but also the first responders who actually participated in the rescues.”
AURORA VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION

STAND DOWN DAY

AN EVENT SUPPORTING LOCAL VETERANS EXPERIENCING OR AT RISK OF HOMELESSNESS

Thursday, Oct. 24, 2019
8 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Heritage Christian Center • 14401 E. Exposition Ave.

We are seeking help to provide the following resources:

- Registration
- Mental health
- Haircuts
- Veteran’s assistance
- Clothing distribution
- Toiletry distribution
- Bike repair
- Mobile health care unit
- Mobile showers
- Employment
- Food court
- Blood pressure checks
- Veterinarian services
- Chaplain services
Fall Conferences 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Fall Conference Schedule</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District 12</td>
<td>Saturday, October 05, 2019</td>
<td>Buena Vista Post 55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 9</td>
<td>Monday, October 07, 2019</td>
<td>Homelake CLC</td>
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<tr>
<td>District 8</td>
<td>Monday, October 07, 2019</td>
<td>Westcliffe Post 170</td>
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<tr>
<td>District 6</td>
<td>Tuesday, October 08, 2019</td>
<td>Commerce City Post 151</td>
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<tr>
<td>District 3</td>
<td>Saturday, October 19, 2019</td>
<td>Wray Post 30</td>
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<tr>
<td>District 2</td>
<td>Sunday, October 20, 2019</td>
<td>Geona Post 31</td>
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<tr>
<td>District 1</td>
<td>Saturday, October 26, 2019</td>
<td>Manamazona Sr Center 212 North Grand Ave</td>
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<tr>
<td>District 7</td>
<td>Saturday, November 02, 2019</td>
<td>Colorado Springs Post 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>District 13</td>
<td>Sunday, November 10, 2019</td>
<td>Library Rifle</td>
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National Commander's visitation schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, October 06, 2019</td>
<td>Pick up Ntl Commander</td>
<td>American Fl 848 12:54 PM</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, October 06, 2019</td>
<td>Post 5 Colorado Springs Dinner</td>
<td>5:00 PM</td>
<td>Taco Bar $10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, October 07, 2019</td>
<td>Walsenburg CLC Visit (State nursing home)</td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>Visit only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, October 07, 2019</td>
<td>Homelake CLC Lunch (State Nursing home)</td>
<td>Noon</td>
<td>Lunch with residents No charge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, October 07, 2019</td>
<td>Post 170 Westcliffe Dinner -</td>
<td>5:30 PM</td>
<td>Spaghetti dinner $8.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, October 08, 2019</td>
<td>KEZW Radio Interview</td>
<td>9:30 AM</td>
<td>5-10 Minute Interview</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, October 08, 2019</td>
<td>Colo Freedom Memorial Visit</td>
<td>10 30 AM</td>
<td>Visit only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, October 08, 2019</td>
<td>Denver VA Hospital Visit - Invitation only</td>
<td>3:00 PM</td>
<td>Vist with Director Michael T. Kilmer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, October 08, 2019</td>
<td>Post 151 Commerce City</td>
<td>Social 5 PM</td>
<td>Dinner 5:30 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, October 09, 2019</td>
<td>Crawford House Visit</td>
<td>9 30 AM</td>
<td>Visit only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, October 09, 2019</td>
<td>Post 38 Fountain Lunch</td>
<td>noon</td>
<td>Sandwiches $10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, October 09, 2019</td>
<td>Pike Peak National Cemetary</td>
<td>2:00 PM</td>
<td>Visit Only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, October 09, 2019</td>
<td>Post 209 Colorado Springs</td>
<td>5:00 PM</td>
<td>Chicken Fried Steak or Baked Chicken Breast $10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 10 Ntl Commander Depart</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Depart Delta Fl 2114 6:19 AM</td>
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The American Legion USAA Rewards™ World MasterCard® supports The American Legion by giving back to its programs through everyday purchases — all with competitive rates and legendary customer service from USAA Bank.

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USAA means United Services Automobile Association and its affiliates. USAA products are available only in those jurisdictions where USAA is authorized to sell them. Purchase of a product other than USAA auto or property insurance, or purchase of an insurance policy offered through the USAA Insurance Agency, does not establish eligibility for or membership in USAA property and casualty insurance companies. This credit card program is issued by USAA Savings Bank, Member FDIC. The American Legion receives financial support from USAA for its sponsorship.
Veterans Legacy Memorial honors deceased Veterans online

The Veterans Legacy Memorial, the country’s first digital platform dedicated entirely to memory preservation for the 3.7 million Veterans interred in VA national cemeteries, launched Aug. 14.

Each Veteran will have their own memorial page on the VLM, a secure, web-based platform that creates a perpetual memorial extending beyond the physical border of the national cemetery.

“Veterans Legacy Memorial ensures ‘no Veteran ever dies’ by honoring the legacy of our nation’s Veterans, not just in our cemeteries, but in a new and innovative digital setting,” said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. “It enhances the onsite national cemetery experience and extends the experience to those who otherwise are unable to physically visit the cemetery.”

NCA, in conjunction with VA’s Office of Information & Technology, built the architecture for the site starting with the information contained on every Veteran’s headstone.

In the initial rollout, the public will be able to search the site for Veterans, find out where they are buried and read the basic details of their lives and service. Future capabilities may be expanded to allow families, survivors, fellow Veterans and others to add historic photos and share memories to a deceased Veteran’s memorial page. Such capabilities will include provisions that allows NCA to manage the site in a manner that maintains the same level of decorum our customers experience in our national cemeteries.

For more information about the Veterans Legacy Memorial, visit https://www.va.gov/remember. Have questions about Veterans Legacy Memorial? Find what you’re looking for at VLM FAQ.

Veterans Corner

By: Richard Nagly

Recently the Veterans Coalition of the San Luis Valley (VCSLV) facilitated the Women Veterans Health Care and Benefit Semiannual Forum. Women veterans, SLV women Health Care Providers, and VA representatives were present to discuss health care & benefit issues. I understand all questions, concerns, and issues facing women veterans were on the table. Not being present, I have asked VCSLV women leaders Mary Cornum (COO) & Charlotte Bobicki (Vice President of the Board) to author this issue of Veterans Corner.

The Women Veterans of the Valley held a Forum on Women’s Health Access and the VA Mission Act on August 28th, at the SLV Health Conference Center. Presenting information regarding their services and access for Women Veterans were Janiol Arnoldi, CEO VWHS, Konnie Martin, SLV Health Services, Wilma Atencio, VA liaison Trinidad Junior College and Kelly Gallegos, Conejos County Hospital. Also contributing by letter was James Owens, ASU Veterans Administrator who sent information regarding ASU’s liaison services. All presenters expressed interest and a desire to care for the Women Veterans in our communities and to provide access to care and Veteran education.

We were also honored to have in attendance representatives of the Veterans Administration. Debbie Pruitt, Medical Support System Supervisor for the VA out of Pueblo, Carolyn McKay, Outlying Clinical Social Worker for the VA out of Colorado Springs, and Deb Davis, the former Post Commander of the all Woman American Legion out of Aurora, along with her other duties as Chair for Female Veterans Awareness Committee provided a world of knowledge to those present.

All of our VA presenters addressed the VA Mission Act and had general discussions regarding access and needs, including travel and eligibility for benefits. There were open questions and responses as issues were addressed and questions came to light.

An important component of our VA presentations included “Eligibility for Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers” along with the discussion of certain criteria that must be met for assistance. For information see your county VSO or go online to MyhealthVet (https://www.myhealth.va.gov/mhv-portal-web/home).

The Forum was well attended and many commented that the Women Veterans Forum was a good networking step for addressing women veteran needs and the information provided was positive and beneficial to those attending.

It is important to the VCSLV to locate as many Women Veterans as possible to be able to invite them to our educational forums. If you know a woman veteran please have them contact us to get on our mailing list.

On behalf of the VCSLV Board of Directors, I wish thank Charlotte & Mary for this issue of Veterans Corner. I would like to invite women veterans to contact either Mary or Charlotte at VCSLV (719/992-4108).

We have received a number of calls from Veterans who were part of the Blue Water Navy (BWN). We encourage anyone who may have been part of the Vietnam War BWN, check out the Blue Water Navy Association (https://www.bwnva.org/) website. This is a great place to begin if you think this might affect you. Their website includes a questionnaire and a master list of ships, dates and times of deployment for those that may qualify for VA benefits. We encourage ALL veterans, who were in the Vietnam War and possibly exposed to Agent Orange and other defoliants to contact their County VSO or the Veterans Coalition for more information.

As we said in a previous Veterans Corner, things for veterans are changing. The VA MISSION ACT is the law of the land. You can either be part of the change or you can watch it pass you by. For
more information on VA Health Care and/or Benefits, including the MISSION ACT, contact your San Luis Valley health care provider, your County’s VSO, the Veterans Coalition, or look it up online.

The VA has recently released a WELCOME TO VA guide for veterans (https://www.va.gov/welcome-kit/), which finally begins to demystify the VA. The “Records” option (https://www.va.gov/records/) will show how to get different types of identification cards to show your military status or your enrollment in VA health care. Why is that important you may ask? Many businesses, even in the Valley, recognize veterans and offer a discount as a token of appreciation for your service. Check out the Veterans Coalition website (vcslv.info) for some of the businesses.

September is National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. While suicide can be a difficult topic to talk about, it’s one we must discuss. Reducing stigma and restoring hope is critical. Veterans are 50% more likely to die by suicide than civilians. But you can be part of the solution. For more information visit VA’s Together With Veterans program (https://www.togetherwithveterans.org/) and Operation Veterans Strong (https://www.operationveteranstrong.org/). These are great tools VCSLV has been a part of.

VCSLV is a 501©3 and could use your help. Any donation large or small would be greatly appreciated.

VCSLV are volunteers just like you, some veterans, some not. If you would like to learn more about how you can help a veteran or are a veteran in need of help, give us a call (719/992-4108). We’ll do what we can.

VCSLV will attempt to submit an article to the paper on some what a regular basis. If you find this information helpful, we’d like to hear from you and tell the paper also. We will try to focus on one topic of interest to veterans and their families or friends. If you have a general issue you’d like us to address, feel free to contact us, but your County VSO is the best place to start for a personal issue.

Respectfully,
Veterans Coalition of the San Luis Valley

Select photos from the National Convention

Receiving National Service Award as shown from left to right: Vicent J. Troiola Employment and Education Commission Chairman, Traci Marques Executive Director Pikes Peak Workforce Center, James C. Fratolillo Chairman Veterans Preference Committee, Darrell Myers Member Employment and Education Commission.

National Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award was presented to Lt. Jane E. Anderson shown on the right of the plaque and then National Commander Brett P. Reistad on the left side. Lt Anderson was with the Colorado Springs Police Department.
How will you pay for expenses that Medicare doesn’t cover?

With the high cost of healthcare today, Medicare Supplement insurance is becoming a necessity for more and more Americans. That’s why it’s good to know that you now have a choice of Standardized Medicare Supplement plans at affordable group rates, offered to members like you. And, all plans are underwritten by a company known for its prompt, personal, responsive service.

Other features include:

- The freedom of choosing your own doctors and hospitals
- Outstanding Customer Service available from courteous representatives ready to answer your questions
- Hassle-free claims processing in about 7 days
- Excellent service from a company with an A+ (Superior, 2nd out of 16 ratings) A.M. Best rating for financial stability as of 4/27/11

Make sure you can pay for the expenses that Medicare doesn’t cover and help protect your family’s retirement savings. Apply today for the peace of mind you want, at affordable Legionnaire Insurance Trust member rates.

Complete and Return The Reply Card. Or, Call 1-800-247-1771
(Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. EST)

Underwritten by; Transamerica Life Insurance Company, and
Transamerica Financial Life Insurance Company (NY)

Here are Group Medicare Supplement Plans especially for Legionnaire Insurance Trust Members.

Legionnaire Insurance Trust Members
Medicare Supplement Reply Card

For your FREE information kit on the Medicare Supplement Insurance Plans complete and return this coupon.

Name: ___________________________ DOB: ____________
Spouse Name: __________________ Spouse's DOB: __________

Address: ___________________________
City: ___________ State: ___________ ZIP: ____________

Telephone (___________)

Send to: Medicare Supplement Processing Dept.
P.O. Box 1341
Valley Forge, PA 19482-9946

785336101 25554730
ID RESOLVE

A New Program to Help Legionnaires Fight Back Against Identity Theft

Identity theft is the fastest growing crime in America and has affected more than 16.7 million victims, with veterans being especially vulnerable targets. Data breaches are becoming more frequent and, when an identity thief strikes, most victims are left to clean up the mess themselves, unsure of where to turn to first. We’ve heard Legionnaire’s concerns around the growing threats of identity theft and are proud to provide a new service to address this concern.

ID Resolve focuses solely on the aftermath of identity theft and resolving the issue. With call centers located in the U.S., Legionnaires can activate an important set of services to fix the situation and restore their name. ID Resolve’s Identity Resolution Specialists are certified in identifying and repairing any type of identity theft such as medical fraud, Social Security identity theft, and financial theft.

ID Resolve is available to Legionnaires at a special member-only rate and provides resolution services for a full year. Plus, Legionnaires can take up to 30 days to review ID Resolve and decide if it’s right for them; if not, a full refund is available as long as the services have not been used.

There are two annual memberships available:

Member: $79/year
Couple: $99/year

To learn more or enroll in ID Resolve, visit www.thelit.com/IDResolve

ID Theft by the numbers

Claims a new victim every 2 seconds
16+ mill. victims targeted in the U.S.
$16 billion in losses
Veterans are 50% more likely to be the victim of identity theft
There were 1,579 data breaches last year
40+ hours spent resolving an identity theft case

Services provided by Generali Global Assistance. Generali Global Assistance has been a leading provider of identity and digital protection solutions, travel insurance, and other assistance services for more than 35 years. Generali Global Assistance is part of the multinational Generali Group, which for over 185 years has created a presence in 60 countries with over 74,000 employees. Generali’s success has been built on the foundation of trust that clients have placed in their ability to provide assistance in the most difficult of circumstances.
WE CAN BE CENSUS TAKERS

APPLY ONLINE!
2020census.gov/jobs

2020 Census jobs provide:
✓ Great pay
✓ Flexible hours
✓ Weekly pay
✓ Paid training

For more information or help applying, please call 1-855-JOB-2020

Federal Relay Service:
1-800-877-8339 TTY/ASCII
www.gsa.gov/fedrelay

The U.S. Census Bureau is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
THE 2020 CENSUS:
AN IMPORTANT WAY TO SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY

Every ten years, the U.S. Census Bureau is responsible for conducting the nationwide census. While the next census itself will be taken in 2020, the Census Bureau is already recruiting to fill important positions. With the help of organizations like yours, we plan to recruit and employ thousands of Americans as Census Takers throughout the country. Since most communities are best known by the people who live and work there, you can help us—and help your community—by getting the word out about 2020 Census jobs in your community.

Why should you or your organization help the Census Bureau recruit applicants?
An accurate count is the goal of every census, the 2020 Census included. The results of the census have real-world impacts—and consequences—for communities across our country. From determining the number of seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives to planning for roads, schools, and hospitals, an accurate count is crucial. By helping to recruit Census Taker applicants from your community, you can help to ensure that your community is properly represented.

How can you or your organization help to get the word out about 2020 Census jobs?
You can help by doing any of the following:
- Posting information about 2020 Census jobs using your organization’s social media channels, as well as by tagging other organizations that might also be willing to share this information
- Posting information about 2020 Census jobs on your organization’s website and/or in newsletters
- Distributing promotional materials about 2020 Census jobs to your clients, customers, and/or members
- Displaying promotional materials about 2020 Census jobs in your offices and other facilities
- Allowing a Census Bureau recruiter to distribute promotional materials to your clients, customers, and/or members
- Sending an email with 2020 Census jobs information to your contacts
- Inviting a Census Recruiter to present information about 2020 Census jobs at your meetings or other gatherings, or being willing to provide 2020 Census jobs materials at those times yourself
- We are also very interested in any ideas you may have; since nobody knows your organization better than you, we look forward to working with you in what you believe will be the most effective ways

How will you know what information to distribute? Or will the Census Bureau provide the materials and messages?
We will make sure you have everything you need. To learn more about this, and to obtain materials and messaging, please visit www.census.gov/regions for information on how to contact your Regional Census Center.

Applicants are encouraged to apply online at 2020census.gov/jobs or to call the toll-free number at 1-855-JOB-2020 with questions, or to obtain more information or assistance.

Thank you for your interest in helping to promote 2020 Census jobs!

Best regards,
2020 Census Recruiting Team
To receive the nomination packet, send an e-mail to Observer@coloradolegion.org and request the packet be sent by e-mail to you. Follow all instructions to ensure a complete nomination has been filed on time.

THE NATIONAL VETERANS EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION COMMISSION AWARDS

The first American Legion Veterans Employment and Education Commission Award was established in 1947, and recognized individuals across the country who had established outstanding records in the employment and retention of workers with disabilities. Since that time, categories were added to the current nine award programs.

The Veterans Employment and Education Commission is striving to award all possible pending awards that are available to The American Legion. We implore all departments to continue to submit award nominations for the awards with the hope that we receive all 400+ possible nominations. We are striving to reach 100% participation in this program.

1. EMPLOYER OF VETERANS AWARD - (SMALL)
2. EMPLOYER OF VETERANS AWARD - (MEDIUM)
3. EMPLOYER OF VETERANS AWARD - (LARGE)
4. EMPLOYMENT SERVICE AWARD - (DVOP)
5. EMPLOYMENT SERVICE AWARD - (LVER)
6. EMPLOYMENT SERVICE AWARD - (LOCAL OFFICE)
7. EMPLOYER OF OLDER WORKERS AWARD
8. ENHANCE THE LIVES OF DISABLED PERSON AWARD
9. MICHAEL GUTY HOMELESS VETERANS OUTREACH AWARD

To be considered for the National Award, the deadline for submittals to the Veterans Employment and Education Commission in Washington, DC is January 15, of the following year. Example: To be nominated for the 2018 awards the nomination must be in by January 15, 2019. Nomination packets must be into Department on or before December 15, 2019.

It is important that the department winners are submitted by this time to ensure that they are considered for the national award to be delivered at the annual National Convention. Each of the national winners receives a stipend to help defray the cost of their representative’s travel to the convention city to accept the award.

We ask that you submit written correspondence, or fax, or send an electronic scanned copy in the form of an e-mail to our national headquarters office. Please title your letter ‘[Title] Awards- [Department name]’.

All entries must be accompanied by an official nomination form (see the following pages) and must not be longer than two pages of narrative. Supporting documents, which may also be submitted with the nomination, must not exceed ten pages.
2019 Media Awards Criteria

By: Darrell Myers, Public Relations Committee

The Media Awards will be presented during the Mid-Year Conference.

Print Media Awards: Nominations can be made for Small, Medium and Large newspapers. The definitions of small, medium and large newspapers are as follows:

- **Major Market Print Media Awards**: Large city newspapers with populations of 100,000 or more
- **Medium Market Print Media Awards**: Medium city newspapers with populations of 25,000 to 99,999
- **Small Market Print Media Awards**: Small city newspapers with a population of 1,000 to 24,999

Television and Radio Station Awards: There is only one award presented to a Television Station and one award presented for a Radio Station - there are no categories.

Media Award Nominations must come from a post through the use of a nomination letter. The nomination letter must contain the below listed headings and the correct information supplied by your post so that the committee members don’t have to spend their time finding that information and can spend their time judging.

*To make your nomination for the media awards follow the instructions as listed:

**Nomination Letter**: Name of Media being nominated, Name of Article/Newscast, Name of Author, Name of Editor, Award Category, Name of Contact Person, Address and Phone Number of Contact Person, Reason for Nomination, Post Number, Name of Nominator, Nominator’s Address and Phone Number.

For the Market Print Media Award (newspapers) a post must gather the original article or articles in sufficient quantity to provide a packet for each of the three members of the Public Relations Committee. Copies of the articles are not permitted.

For TV nominations, a link (s) to the story (s) must be included in the nominating letter so that the members of the Public Relations committee can go and review the story (s) and the letter must be mailed to each of the three members of the Public Relations Committee.

For Radio Station Nominations, there must be a written narrative of what the radio station programming was and what they did to help the veterans of your community, and if possible, a link should be included that would allow the committee to hear the programs in the nomination letter and then sent to each of the three members of the Public Relations Committee.

Deadline for nominations is **November 30, 2019!**

Department Public Relations Committee Members are:

- **Robb Smith** – 605 E 41st St, Loveland, CO 80538
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Colorado Riders donate $11,000+ in support of the Legacy Scholarships. From left to right: PDC Robb Smith, Department Commander Dean Noechel, then National Commander Brett P. Reistad, Marvin Weaver Jr. Department Finance Officer and Joe Schmidt Assistance Sgt-at-Arms

The National VA&R William F. Lenker Award was presented to Department of Colorado, for volunteerism and service to Colorado veterans. Shown from left to right: then National Commander Brett P. Reistad, NEC Tom Florez, Department Adjutant Pat Smith, Department Commander Dean Noechel and PDC Robb Smith.

Then National Commander Brett P. Reistad left, Vincent J. Troiola Employment and Education Commission Chairman center and the National DVOP of the Year Mark Simmons Pikes Peak Workforce Center, Colorado Springs.

We are pleased to welcome William Joseph Davis Jr., as a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) accredited representative of The American Legion for the preparation, presentation, and prosecution of claims for veterans’ benefits.
it was down, I wouldn’t bleed.” Doctors couldn’t find the source, but an operation the night before Thanksgiving seemed to do the trick.

“They took me down and put me on the operating table, cut the bandages, and when they cut that bandage, the blood flew to the ceiling. They slapped a tourniquet on me and ether on me and everything went black. But the pain was gone,” Royer said. “I woke up the next morning and I couldn’t bend my arm, it was tied down to the bed with enough blood going in there, and there was something going in this arm. They had started blood in me that night, all Thanksgiving day, all Thanksgiving night and part of the next day. Eight quarts and 1 ½ pints of blood they give me in that time.”

Royer was told the hospital had to ask for donations of blood from the French people because he needed so much. “So I have some French blood in me,” he joked.

Royer had more complications from his wounds after his return to the U.S. But the devout Royer put his trust in God — and exercise.

On Sunday, the spry 94-year-old sat beside his wife of 73 years, Ruby, as family and friends congratulated him and dignitaries saluted him.

Guillaume Lacroix, Consul General of France in Chicago, presented Royer with the Legion of Honor on behalf of French President Emmanuel Macron. Lacroix spoke of France’s gratitude to the U.S. for its help in freeing the country from Nazi rule.

“You are a true American hero, and you are a true French hero,” Lacroix told Royer.


Representing Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb, Indiana War Memorial Commission Executive Director Stewart Goodwin praised Royer and his generation for shaping and saving the world.

“The fact of the matter is, if the World War II people didn’t do what they did, we’re not here today, and we’re sure as hell not speaking English,” Goodwin said. “The reason we have the freedoms we have today, are because of his generation, and because of the sacrifices that they made.”

As for Royer, who previously received the Purple Heart, the Good Conduct Medal, and the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Ribbon with three Bronze Stars, receiving the Legion of Honor was “beyond my wildest dreams.”

“I never thought about getting anything like this,” he said. “I’m so thankful.”
All honorably discharged Veterans are eligible to shop their military exchanges online, tax-free for life.

This benefit saves Veterans money and helps the military community by generating earnings in support of critical Quality-of-Life programs.

Verify your eligibility today at ShopMyExchange.com/Vets

WELCOME HOME, VETERANS

ShopMyExchange.com/Vets
Starting January 1, 2020 the Department of Defense is expanding in-store military exchange and commissary shopping privileges as well as MWR resale facility use to:

- **Purple Heart recipients**
- **Former Prisoners of War**
- **All veterans with service-connected disabilities**
- **Caregivers or family caregivers registered as the primary caregiver for a veteran in the Department of Veterans Affairs Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers**

Information is available at ShopMyExchange.com/Vets

**Welcome Home, Veterans**

ShopMyExchange.com/Vets
Denver VA Regional Benefits Office Hours & Locations

Denver Public Contact Reception Area
Office Hours:
   Monday – Friday, 8:30 am to 4 pm
Location:
   Denver VA Regional Office
   Room 201
   155 Van Gordon St.
   Lakewood, CO 80228

The VBA Office in the PFC Floyd K. Lindstrom VA Clinic in Colorado Springs:
Office Hours:
   Monday – Friday, 8:30 am to 4 pm
Location:
   PFC Floyd K. Lindstrom Outpatient Clinic at Colorado Springs
   Suite 1300
   3141 Centennial Boulevard
   Colorado Springs, CO 80907

The VBA Office in the Rocky Mountain Regional VA Medical Center:
Office Hours:
   Monday – Friday, 9 am – 11 am & 12-3:30pm (new hours!)
Location:
   Rocky Mountain Regional VA Medical Center
   1700 North Wheeling Street (South Entrance, near Pharmacy check-in kiosk)
   Aurora, CO 80045

The VBA Office in the VA Western Colorado Health Care System:
Office Hours:
   (VACANT-outreach provided in Western Slope 4th of the month until position is filled)
Location:
   VA Western Colorado Health Care System
   Room 1410B (new office number!)
   2121 North Avenue
   Grand Junction, Colorado 81501

For all locations of VA Facilities:
Visit our website for directions and maps:
http://www.benefits.va.gov/other-va-facilities.asp
To call: 1-800-621-1600
To send an email: https://iris.va.gov/email/

Revised 7/17/19 RSS
NEW! Denver VA Regional Benefits Office Hours & Locations

Do you have a question about your VA Benefits?

Compensation Claim, Pension Claim, Aid and Attendance, Appeals, survivor and burial benefits, Home Loans, Employment, or Education?

The VBA Office in the Rocky Mountain Regional VA Medical Center is holding office hours:
Office Hours:
   Monday – Friday, 9 am – 11 am & 12-3:30pm (new hours!)
Location:
   Rocky Mountain Regional VA Medical Center
   1700 North Wheeling Street (South Entrance, near Pharmacy check-in kiosk)
   Aurora, CO  80045

(Sign in near the Pharmacy check in kiosk)

For all locations of VA Facilities:
Visit our website for directions and maps:
http://www.benefits.va.gov/denver/other-va-facilities.asp
To call: 1-800-827-1000
To send an email: https://iris.custhelp.com/

Revised 7/17/19 RSS
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